

Certification Central

North Dakota's 1st Alternative Educator Preparation Program

Presentation to the Interim Education Policy Committee, 67th Legislative Assembly

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www.certificationcentral.education

701.322.4429



Katherine Terras

Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Hello everyone! I have been an educator for 22 years. I practiced as a paraprofessional, public school teacher, and university professor. I believe in alternatives for training educators and behavior technicians in order to offer a variety of pathways for diverse learners. Mark and I were both raised in rural North Dakota, as well as have children attending rural school. We understand the unique needs of training and retaining educators, in addition to meeting the community's behavioral health needs.

Mark Reinhart

Founder & Chief Operating Officer

Hello! I have had many life experiences from owning a business to parenting, which have led me to this chapter with Certification Central. As a continuous learner, I am committed to creating training opportunities for those who learn differently and for those who have busy lives and are longing for a lane change in life. I have a desire to open opportunities for those living in rural and remote areas. Katherine and I want to help reduce the teacher shortage in these areas while making a career in teaching affordable by reducing the financial burden of school loans.



Certification Central

Training Educators & Behavior Technicians

The mission of Certification Central is to provide an alternative, career-ready program for licensing educators and training behavior technicians using a competency-based model that is affordable and accessible.

North Dakota's 1st Alternative Educator Preparation Program

Each person's road to success looks different.
Where do you want yours to lead?

Accessible

Fully online, self paced program to enroll in anytime from anywhere

Approved

Program Approved by ND ESPB

Affordable

Costs 60 - 70% less than other regional institutions

Authentic

Performance-based assessments are used to reflect career ready competencies

Accelerated

Competency-based to allow those with related experiences to move at a faster pace

Special Education Licensure Program





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ND State Approved Teacher Preparation Programs

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https://certificationcentral.education/@

Dickinson State University

291 Campus Drive
Dickinson, ND 58601
www.dickinsonstate.edu

Special Education Licensure Program

CERTIFICATION CENTRAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Invests in your future with financial savings of 60-70%
- Qualifies you for the ND Educator's Professional License and 4
 - special education endorsements (LD, ID, ED, Strategist)
 - Leverages your prior experiences with an accelerated program
 - Maximizes on-the-job-training for your clinical experiences
 - Anchors content in high-leverage practices to be career-ready
 - Trains you using practitioners who are leaders in the field
 - Integrates disability-specific content at no additional cost
 - Provides you with a professional learning community through
 - virtual coaching
 - Offers a master equivalent for salary raises

Program of Study

Special Education Core	Credit
	Equivalency
SPED Module 1 Learner Development & Individual Learning/Cultural Differences	3
SPED Module 2 Legal/Ethical Practices & Professional Learning	3
SPED Module 3 Curricular Content Knowledge & Individual Education Plans	3
SPED Module 4 Assessment & Measurement	3
SPED Module 5 Understanding & Managing Behavior	3
SPED Module 6 Instructional Planning, Strategies, & Transition	3
SPED Module 7 Collaboration, Consultation, & Supervision	3
SPED Module 8 Inclusive Learning Environments	3
SPED 600 Special Education Internship	7
700 Hour Clinical Practice Requirement: On-the-Job or Traditional Options Available	
SPED 900 Scholarly Capstone Portfolio	1
Professional Education Core	
ED Module 9 Pedagogy: The Art and Science of Teaching	3
ED Module 10 Reading Methods: Elementary	3
ED Module 11 Math Methods: Elementary	3



Master Equivalent



SPED 900: Scholarly Capstone Portfolio

The purpose of the capstone portfolio is for candidates to provide evidence of growth and impact in the special education discipline. The Special Education Capstone Portfolio [hereinafter Portfolio] is both an evidentiary mechanism for self-appraisal and for a longitudinal, critical analysis of a candidate's progress toward meeting teaching standards. Although the Portfolio will be submitted during SPED Module 8 Inclusive Learning Environments, it is to address learning throughout the candidate's entire postbaccalaureate training program.

Special Education Programmatic SLOs

The special education program's student learning objectives (SLOs) are aligned with the Council for Exceptional Children's 2020 Initial K-12

Professional Preparation Standards for Special Educators and the 2017 High Leverage Practices (HLPs) identified by the Council for Exceptional Children and CEEDAR Center. The SLOs are as follows:

- Candidates practice within ethical and legal guidelines; advocate for improved outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities and their families while considering their social, cultural, and linguistic diversity; and engage in ongoing self-reflection to design and implement professional learning activities. (CEC Standard 1)
- Candidates use their understanding of human growth and development, the multiple influences on development, individual differences, diversity, including exceptionalities, and families and communities to plan and implement inclusive learning environments and experiences that provide individuals with exceptionalities high quality learning experiences reflective of each individual's strengths and needs. (CEC Standard 2)
- 3. Candidates apply their understanding of the academic subject matter content of the general curriculum and specialized curricula to inform their programmatic and instructional decisions for learners with exceptionalities. (CEC Standard 3, HLPs 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20)
- 4. Candidates assess students' learning, behavior, and the classroom environment in order to evaluate and support classroom and school-based problem-solving systems of intervention and instruction. Candidates evaluate students to determine their strengths and needs, contribute to

Master Equivalent

Special Education Capstone Portfolio Proficiency Scale

	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
	Proficient	Connecting	Emerging	Beginning
Category 1 Self-Appraisal	Narrative substantively details how professional goals have been achieved or altered since admission;	Narrative details how professional goals have been achieved or altered since admission;	Narrative is <i>oversimplified</i> regarding how professional goals have been achieved or altered since admission;	Narrative is absent or incomplete.
Evaluate how you transformed as a special education professional. CEC Standards 6, 7 ESPB 19015.4	Evaluation of teaching philosophy and dispositions comprehensively explains changes with a compelling interconnection with the professional literature; critical thinking is highly evident;	Evaluation of teaching philosophy and dispositions comprehensively explains changes and are adequately supported with professional literature; critical thinking is evident;	Evaluation of teaching philosophy and dispositions is without interpretation regarding changes; professional literature is absent or ill- connected; critical thinking is simplistic;	Evaluation of teaching philosophy and dispositions is absent or incomplete.
	A minimum of two forms of <i>compelling</i> evidence are included and represent a full understanding/application of content.	A minimum of two forms of evidence are included and represent a full understanding/application of content.	A minimum of two forms of evidence are included but a full understanding/application of content is inconclusive due to a disconnection between narrative and evidence.	Evidence is absent or incomplete.
Category 2 Content Knowledge Support how the understanding of your discipline/field of study is	Narrative fully details prioritized efforts/plans to shape policies and procedures across two local levels while considering the complexities of systems change; citations/professional literature provide a deep interconnection;	Narrative fully details prioritized efforts/plans to shape policies and procedures across at least one local level while considering the complexities of systems change; citations/professional literature are connected;	Narrative details arbitrary or impractical efforts/plans to shape policies and procedures across at least one level while the complexities of systems change are unaccounted for or underdeveloped; citations/professional literature are disconnected;	Narrative is absent or incomplete.
becoming more nuanced. CEC Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ESPB 19015.4	Clear and accurate synthesis of feedback for critical analysis of knowledge and skills;	Clear synthesis of feedback for critical analysis of knowledge and skills;	Vague synthesis of feedback for critical analysis resulting in knowledge and skills that are underdeveloped or inaccurate;	Synthesis is absent or incomplete.
	Explanation of restructured/expanded knowledge and skills is comprehensively described within a broader context;	Explanation of restructured/expanded concept formation is comprehensively described;	Explanation of restructured/expanded knowledge and skills is not convincing due to limited supporting evidence;	Explanation is absent or incomplete.
	A minimum of two forms of <i>compelling</i> evidence are included and represent a	A minimum of two forms of evidence are included and represent	A minimum of two forms of evidence are included but a full	





Admission Requirements, Decisions, & Instructions for Completing the Special Education Program Application

Admission Requirements

- Certification Central (CC) is an enroll anytime program with no deadlines. After you submit the completed application, you will be notified of our admission decision within 1 week.
- 2. You must have earned a Bachelor's degree in any field/discipline from an accredited institution.
- Your cumulative GPA (or junior/senior year) must be a minimum of 2.75. You will verify this with your transcript(s). For the application, you can submit unofficial transcripts. If accepted into CC's program, you will submit official transcripts prior to starting.
- 4. You must pass a recent FBI background check (no older than 3 months) or submit a copy of your current ND's Educator Professional License (expired license can't be accepted). Regarding the background check, start this application early as you are going to need to ensure you have a complete background check. Such a check can take weeks to complete. Use the following link to request an FBI Background check. Be sure to read through the instructions carefully. http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks Attach the receipt of a cleared background check in your application.
- 5. You need 3 professional letters of recommendation that speak to your experiences or interests in the field of special education. Please avoid submitting references from friends and family. You will collect these letters then submit them when you complete the application.
- 6. Update your resume, as you will be uploading this in your application.
- You will write 2 essays as part of your application package. These essays should be written in <u>one</u> document and answer the following (please use headings):
 - Essay 1: Explain your experiences or interests in working with individuals with disabilities and what you learned from these experiences. Finally, identify two professional goals.
 - Essay 2: Certification Central's program is fully online and self-paced with virtual coaching sessions. Explain how this program is a good fit for you.

Admission Decisions

After reviewing your application, an admission decision will be made to include one of the following:

- Full Admission to the Program: This means you will have access to all training modules in the program
 with no restrictions.
- Provisional Admission to the Program: This means you will be permitted to take one training module.
 You must complete this module with a rating of Proficient (4.0) then you will earn full admission to the program.
- Denied Admission to the Program: This means you did not meet the requirements of the program. You will be provided with the reason for the denial.

Advising, Coaching, & Mentoring

- Dr. Katherine Terras is serving as an advisor for students.
- Virtual coaching sessions are conducted bi-weekly for students to ask questions, engage in dialogue, and create a professional learning community.
- Mentorship is offered post-licensure to completers to <u>retain</u> teachers.





Official Competency-Based Transcript

Certification Central

P.O. Box 322

McVille, ND 58254

701.322.4429

www.certificationcentral.education

Program Approved by ND ESPB

Print Date

Student: Katherine Terras

Date of Birth: 09/10/1980

Program of Study: Special Education

Date of Enrollment: July 2020

Date of Completion: August 2021

Degree Equivalency: Master

Cumulative GPA: 3.75

Module	Description	Unit	Proficiency	Start Date	End Date
		Equivalency			
SPED 1	Instr Plan, Strateg, & Transition	4	4 Proficient	July 2020	Aug 2020
SPED 2	Legal/Ethical Prac & Prof Learn	4	4 Proficient	Aug 2020	Sept 2020
SPED 3	Curric Cont Knowl & IEPs	4	4 Proficient	Sept 2020	Oct 2020
SPED 4	Assess & Measure	4	3 Connecting	Oct 2020	Dec 2020
SPED 5	Understand & Manage Behav	4	3 Connecting	Dec 2020	Feb 2021
SPED 6	Instr Plan, Strateg, & Transition	4	4 Proficient	Feb 2021	Apr 2021
SPED 7	Collab, Consult, & Superv	4	4 Proficient	Apr 2021	June 2021
SPED 8	Inclus Learn Envir	4	4 Proficient	June 2021	Aug 2021

Competency Evaluation System

1.0 Beginning Candidate is not able to demonstrate this skill with appropriate procedures and/or completes it inaccurately; constant support/supervision

is needed.

2.0 Emerging Candidate occasionally

demonstrates this skill with some appropriate procedures and with some accuracy, yet needs ongoing support/supervision

3.0 Connecting Candidate usually

demonstrates this skill using appropriate procedures and with accuracy; some support/supervision is still needed.

4.0 Proficient

Candidate consistently and independently demonstrates this skill using appropriate procedures and with complete accuracy.

Special Symbols

Incomplete Withdrew

Module is in progress

Module Numbering System

Modules at the 600 level are professional development/continuing education modules.

Unit Equivalency

Unit	Equivalency		
1	1 semester hour credit		
2	2 semester hour credits		
3	3 semester hour credits		

4 semester hour credits

Degree Equivalency

Certification Central is an alternative educator preparation program approved by the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board. Certification Central provides post baccalaureate training that is equivalent to a master's degree.

Official Transcripts

All official transcripts bear Certification Central's seal and the signature of Certification Central's Registrar.

Release of Information

PRIVACY ACT: In accordance with the Family Educational Rights Act of 1974, as amended, this record is not to be released to a third party without written permission from the student.

Transcript Validation and Authenticity

Official transcripts bear the signature of the Registrar with the Certification Central logo appearing as a WaterMark. Hold up to light to verify. Transcripts that have been copied will appear with the word VOID across the transcript paper and will NOT show the watermark. The STAR in the lower right corner is NOT VISIBLE if this paper has been tampered with.

Descriptions of Module Competencies

SPED Module 1 Learner Develop & Individual Learning/Cultural Differences

- · Understand domains of child & adolescent development
- · Develop comprehensive student profiles at the elementary & secondary levels to address language, culture, & effects of disabilities
- · Construct a professional learning community to understand family systems & their roles
- · Identify the purpose of special education & how to establish cultural justice
- . Understand the characteristics of emotional/behavioral disorders (EBD), learning disabilities (LD), developmental disabilities (DD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), & gifted/talented (GT)

SPED Module 2 Legal/Ethical Practices & Professional Learning

- •SPED Formulate a teaching philosophy about serving students and families
- *Collaborate with a team to write a 504 Plan
- ·Apply special education eligibility criteria for EBD, LD, DD, & ASD
- Analyze school/district disciplinary procedures & practices for compliance with state/federal disabilities laws
- . Construct a compliance & monitoring system as a safeguard to prevent IDEA violations
- *Develop a professional learning plan for lifelong learning

SPED Module 3 Curricular Content Knowledge & Individual Education Plans

- *Understand state content standards and social/emotional learning goals
- . Write standard based IEPs in the disability categories of EBD, LD, DD, & ASD
- ·Modify general & specialized curricula for accessibility for students with disabilities
- ·Facilitate multidisciplinary IEP meetings with effective collaboration & communication skills

SPED Module 4 Assessment & Measurement

- ·Implement the evaluation process with completion of corresponding paperwork
- •Conduct a comprehensive evaluation for special education eligibility & programming
- ·Administer, score, & analyze standardized & curriculum-based assessments
- •Write accurate & professional diagnostic & integrated reports
- *Administer, score, & analyze curriculum-based measurements
- Construct graphical displays of data for data-based decision making

SPED Module 5 Understanding & Managing Behavior

- *Administer & analyze behavior screening tools in combination with an MTSS framework
- Conduct a practical functional behavior assessment
- Conduct a comprehensive functional behavior assessment
- Develop & implement a function-based behavior intervention plan using antecedent, educative, & consequent interventions
- . Understand trauma-informed practices, restorative practices, & child abuse/neglect

SPED Module 6 Instructional Planning, Strategies, & Transition

- ·Identify practices that have an evidence and research-base, as well as those identified as promising & unestablished
- *Develop & implement academic lesson plans that correspond with IEP goals/objectives and are representative of explicit instruction components
- *Plan for generalization of learning using mastery teaching
- *Select assistive technology when appropriate to support students
- Conduct transition assessments around the domains of transition
- *Write a transition IEP with the multidisciplinary team using effective collaboration & communication skills

SPED Module 7 Collaboration, Consultation, & Supervision

- *Apply collaborative tools & strategies through observing & facilitating professional meetings
- *Develop skills for effective consultation & co-teaching
- *Utilize a professional learning community to do develop collaborative & communication skills with families
- ·Construct a policy & procedural manual for training & supervising paraprofessionals

SPED Module 8 Inclusive Learning Environments

- *Develop & implement lesson plans based on the universal design for learning
- Construct a plan for transforming a classroom into a personalized, learning program/environment
- *Utilize principles of cooperative learning
- *Implement inclusive practices for students with EBD, LD, DD, & ASD

SPED Module 9 Pedagogy: The Art & Science of Teaching

- *Develop & implement lesson plans for the general education environment based on models of teaching
- ·Construct competency-based assessments that align to state content standards
- ·Investigate personalized, competency-based learning to determine benefits, drawbacks, & models for implementation
- ·Identify components of a learning environment essential for motivation/engagement & positive teacher/student relationships

SPED Module 10 Reading Methods: Elementary

- *Conduct a miscue analysis, running record, & think aloud
- Develop & implement lesson plans that represent word identification, comprehension, & fluency
- *Build reading programming for Tiers 1 & 2 in an MTSS framework

SPED Module 11 Math Methods: Elementary

- *Develop & implement lesson plans that represent NCTM standards
- *Build math programming for Tiers 1 & 2 in an MTSS framework

Cost Comparison

Special Education Core Program Cost Comparison of 2020-2021 Tuition Rates

Certification Central	Mayville State University	University of North Dakota	
For-Profit	Non-Profit	Non-Profit	
F1at Rate	\$335.60/graduate credit x 32	\$534.40/graduate credit x 32	
(excluding textbooks) \$6,500.00	(excluding textbooks) = 10,739.20	(excluding textbooks) = \$17,100.80	
	Savings of \$4,239.20	Savings of \$10,600.80	

- All 3 programs are approved by NDESPB
- All 3 programs lead to the same ND Educator's Professional License
- All 3 programs offer a master's degree or an equivalent



Behavior Specialist Endorsement Program





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Dickinson State University

291 Campus Drive
Dickinson, ND 58601
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Behavior Intervention Specialist Endorsement

Certification Central is approved by the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board to offer the coursework required for the Behavior Intervention Specialist Endorsement. The requirements are as follows:

Special Education Core	Credit Equivalency
SPED Module 2 Legal/Ethical Practices & Professional Learning	3
SPED Module 3 Curricular Content Knowledge & Individual Education Plans	3
SPED Module 4 Assessment & Measurement	3
SPED Module 5 Understanding & Managing Behavior	3
SPED Module 7 Collaboration, Consultation, & Supervision	3
Behavior Intervention Specialist Core	
Behavior Module 1: Methods & Applications for Behavior Support & Programming • Integrates 20 hours of clinical fieldwork	3
Behavior Module 2: Behavior Assessment & Measurement • Integrates 20 hours of clinical fieldwork	3
Behavior Module 3: Behavior Ethics, Leadership, & Supervision • Integrates 20 hours of clinical fieldwork	3
Behavior Module 4: Behavior Research & Inquiry • Integrates 20 hours of clinical fieldwork	3
Behavior 600: Behavior Specialist Internship **This requirement is integrated across all 4 modules.	2



Special Education Technician Program



Module	Title	Unit/Credit Equivalency	Opening Date	
Special Education Core	Special Education Core			
SPED Module 1	Learner Development & Individual Learning/Cultural Differences	3	Open Now	
SPED Module 1L	Learner Development & Individual Learning/Cultural Differences L	ab 2	Open Now	
SPED Module 2	Legal/Ethical Practices & Professional Learning	3	Open Now	
SPED Module 2L	Legal/Ethical Practices & Professional Learning Lab	2	Open Now	
SPED Module 7	Collaboration, Consultation, & Supervision	3	Open Now	
SPED Module 7L	Collaboration, Consultation, & Supervision Lab	2	Open Now	
Special Education Technician Core				
SPED TECH 101	Individualized Education/Family Service Programs	3	August 1	
SPED TECH 101L	Individualized Education/Family Service Programs Lab	2	August 1	
SPED TECH 102	Behavior Management in Educational Settings	3	July 15	
SPED TECH 102L	Behavior Management in Educational Settings Lab	2	July 15	
SPED TECH 103	Curriculum Based Evaluations for Assessment	3	August 15	
SPED TECH 103L	Curriculum Based Evaluations for Assessment Lab	2	August 15	
SPED TECH 104	High Leverage Practices for High Incidence Disabilities	3	September 15	
SPED TECH 104L	High Leverage Practices for High Incidence Disabilities Lab	2	September 15	
SPED TECH 110	Special Education Technician Practicum	5	October 15	
	Total	Credit Equivalency: 40		

Special Education Technician Program of Study

The total cost is \$6,500 (which is a \$162.50 per credit equivalent).



Quality Assurance



Quality Assurance

- NDESPB approval
- Advisory Council: PK-12 administrator, behavior analyst, SPED teacher, SPED administrator, REA administrator
- Curriculum Review Committee

**National and state reviewer to accredit educator preparation programs



Impact

- Since July 2020, 9 students have been accepted into our Special Education Licensure program.
- Since August 2020, 1 student has been accepted in our Special Education Behavior Specialist endorsement program.
- We project to have a cohort of 10 enrolled in the Special Education Technician Program for fall.



In-State Collaborations



In-State Collaborations

Sponsor of ND Small Organized Schools



Member of NDESPB's Program Approval Advisory Committee (PAAC)



- Consultant for Upper Valley Special Education Unit
 - -Boots on the ground teacher trainer
 - -GRAD: Get Ready to Advance to Diploma





Community Innovation Bush Grant

PIPELINE

Planning Initiative for Preparing Educators for Licensure In ND (Special) Education

Dr. Holly Pederson, Minot State University



Ms. Jackie Migler, Dakota College Bottineau

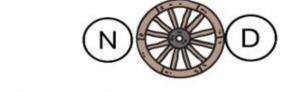


Dr. Katherine Terras, Certification Central



Special Education Consortium

- Special Education Teacher
- Special Education Administrators (rural and urban)
- Higher Education-4 year traditional
- Higher Education-2 year traditional
- Higher Education-alternative
- ND Department of Public Instruction
- ND Council for Exceptional Children
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Parent
- ND Protection and Advocacy



ND SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

· EST 2020 ·



Certification Central's Team



Meet Our Professional Team



Curriculum Developer Curriculum Developer Social Media/Advertising Independent Consultant

Next Steps for North Dakota



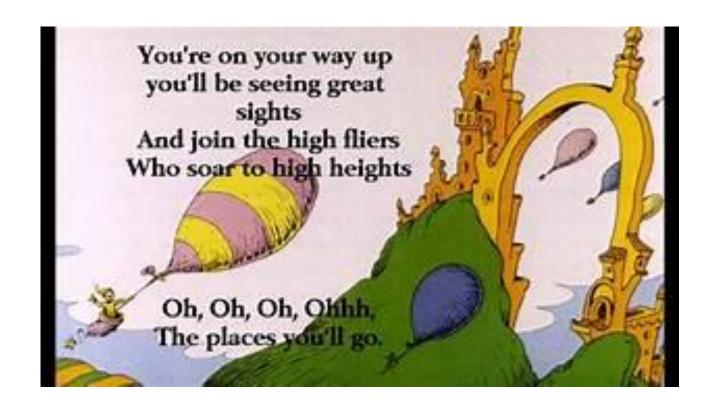
Next Steps for North Dakota

- Maintain <u>quality</u> educator training programs in ND by requiring accreditation/program approval for all. Our kids need and deserve quality teachers.
- Recognize and support accredited alternative programs that are degree
 equivalents. They may not confer degrees, but they are certainly certifying skills.
- Write legislation that includes alternative training programs that are not under the State Board of Higher Education. Using the words college, university, academy, and institute are exclusionary. State approved postsecondary training programs is inclusive language.

So, Why Did I Leave Traditional Higher Education?

"Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change" (Henry Steele Commager, American Historian).

- To freely think outside of the box. I sincerely thank the ND Legislature for letting me step
 outside of that box, and I hope you keep supporting quality alternative pathways to color outside
 of the lines for our ND kids.
- To nimbly respond to problems in the field in order to effectively serve our PK-12 students, especially for those who are most vulnerable.
- To make becoming a teacher affordable. Tuition costs are disproportionate to teacher salaries.
 Teachers should not go into debt to pay for services they do not use, pay for general
 education/essential studies credits that do not support their major to magically make them "well
 rounded," nor pay to subsidize higher-cost majors/programs.



Thank you for this opportunity!
I will now stand for questions.

